

The Community Health Assessment Report Plan

I. INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Metropolitan Health Department of Nashville and Davidson County (MHD) is to promote physical and mental health and prevent disease, injury, and disability. This mission is achieved through policies and programs that assess community health status and assure needed health services.

The Department commits to identify and prioritize community health needs and convey an awareness of these needs to the community. MHD continuously gathers accurate and timely data about the community's health status, providing information to the community and translating information into public health policies and higher level decisions that will affect the community's well-being now and in the future.

In 1995 MHD began formally collecting and analyzing data as a part of an ongoing community health assessment under the Division of Assessment and Surveillance, which was formed as part of the 1995 Metro Health Department strategic planning process. The Health Status of Davidson County, 1990-1996, the first health status assessment report of its kind in Davidson County, was published in 1997, followed by a series of publications on mortality, natality, syphilis epidemic, and other public health topics. In 1999, The Division of Assessment and Surveillance was renamed as the Division of Epidemiology.

One of the main goals of the Division of Epidemiology is to play an essential role in enhancing the department's community health assessment capacity. Setting in motion a planning process is the first step toward that goal. This planning document will serve as a blueprint for establishing a comprehensive Davidson County health assessment system. Specifically, the system will enable the Division of Epidemiology, in cooperation with related internal programs and external agencies, to produce high quality products on an annual basis, reflecting the department's effort in

1. Systematically assessing Nashville and Davidson County's community health status.
2. Providing and disseminating the latest available community health information to the citizens of Nashville and Davidson County, including health care providers and health related agencies

For planning purposes, we will define health, community, neighborhood, planning district, councilmanic district, and community health assessment in the following sections.

Health

Modern concepts of health are broad, covering many dimensions of life not contained in traditional health measures. Review of the literature suggests that the